

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendment above and the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 22-25 have been canceled in this paper. Claims 1, 15, 17 and 18 have been amended in this paper. No new claims have been added in this paper. Therefore, claims 1, 3-5 and 7-15 and 17-21 are pending and are under active consideration.

Claims 15-17 and 19 stand objected to “as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.”

Insofar as the subject objection relates to claim 16, the objection is moot as claim 16 has been canceled in this paper, with the features of claim 16 being incorporated into claim 1. Insofar as the subject objection relates to claims 15 and 17, the objection has been overcome in this paper in view of Applicants’ rewriting of claims 15 and 17 in independent form. Insofar as the subject objection relates to claim 19, Applicants respectfully traverse the objection on the basis that claim 19 depends from claim 15, which, as noted above, has been rewritten in independent form and which has been found by the Patent Office to be directed at allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the subject objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-5, 9-11, 13-14, 18 and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) “as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,360,712 to Trantoul et al. (‘Trantoul’) in view of International Publication No. WO 98/19870 to Almgren, et al. (‘Almgren’).”

Insofar as the subject rejection relates to claims 22-25, the rejection is moot in view of Applicants' cancellation of claims 22-25 in this paper. Insofar as the subject rejection relates to claims 1, 4-5, 9-11, 13-14, 18 and 21, Applicants respectfully traverse the subject rejection.

Claim 1, from which claims 4-5, 9-11, 13-14, 18 and 21 directly or indirectly depend, has been amended in this paper to include the features of canceled claim 16. The Patent Office has indicated that claim 16 is directed at subject matter that is allowable over the art of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of claim 1 to include the features of claim 16 renders claim 1 allowable.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the subject rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) "as being unpatentable over Trantoul in view of Almgren and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,828,636 to Rausing ('Rausing')."

Applicants respectfully traverse the subject rejection. Claim 3 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons discussed above. Therefore, based at least on its dependency from claim 1, claim 3 is allowable over the art of record, including the instant combination of Trantoul, Almgren and Rausing.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the subject rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) "as being unpatentable over Trantoul in view of Almgren and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,590,912 to Stevens ('Stevens')."

Applicants respectfully traverse the subject rejection. Claims 7 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claim 1 is allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons discussed

above. Therefore, based at least on their respective dependencies from claim 1, claims 7 and 8 are allowable over the art of record, including the instant combination of Trantoul, Almgren and Stevens.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the subject rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) “as being unpatentable over Trantoul in view of Almgren and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,135,503 to Lob et al. (‘Lob’).”

Applicants respectfully traverse the subject rejection. Claim 12 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons discussed above. Therefore, based at least on its dependency from claim 1, claim 12 is allowable over the art of record, including the instant combination of Trantoul, Almgren and Lob.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the subject rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) “as being unpatentable over Trantoul in view of Almgren and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,528,222 to Moskowitz et al. (‘Moskowitz’).”

Applicants respectfully traverse the subject rejection. Claim 20 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons discussed above. Therefore, based at least on its dependency from claim 1, claim 20 is allowable over the art of record, including the instant combination of Trantoul, Almgren and Moskowitz.

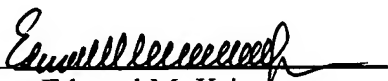
Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the subject rejection should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 11, 2010


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